Operation of Air Private Taxis

1002. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the sectors where private air taxis have been permitted;

(b) the sectors where such taxis are actually operating; and

(c) the impact of such services on profitability of Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Private Air Taxi operators are free to operate to all airports in the country which are open to scheduled operations.

(b) Sectors operated by private air taxis operators vary from time to time. Some examples of the sectors actually operated by them are Madras-Coimbatore-Bombay, Bombay-Bangalore, Bombay-Cochin, Bangalore-Mangalore, Delhi - Bombay, Delhi-Lucknow-Varanasi and Bangalore-Goa.

(c) There has been no impact of such services on the profitability of Indian Airlines.

Tender evaluation of norms of ONGC

1003. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that parties involved in offshore oil drilling are pressurising ONGC to change the tender evaluation norms;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Export of Coal

1004. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost the export of coal to earn foreign exchange;

(b) if so, whether any fresh agreement with foreign countries has been signed recently to export coal;

(c) whether the export of coal will affect the indigenous requirement of coal for steel and power sectors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) steps taken by Government to meet the requirement of coal for steel and power sectors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal India Ltd. have agreed to make available up to 1 million tonnes of coal for export during 1991-92.

(b) As per information given by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, contracts have been concluded with buyers from Nepal for sale of 1,11,200 tonnes of coal.

(c) and (d) Actual export of coal will depend not only on availability of coal but also on conclusion of mutually acceptable contracts and availability of infrastructure like railway wagons and port facilities. Even if the entire quantity of one million tonnes was exported, it will form less than 0.5 per cent of the annual production programme of 228 million tonnes of coal and is not likely to affect the coal availability to steel and power sector.

(e) Instructions have been issued that the requirements of core sector including power and steel must be